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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR. 29 November 1955

SUBJECT

Withdrawal of Soviet Border Guard Units from the Zonal Boundary

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

3. On 7 October 1955, it was observed that furniture and boxes were removed from the quarters of the Soviet unit in the Technikum in Hildburghausen and were trucked to the railroad station. It was learned that the Soviet units were to be withdrawn from the immediate border area, possibly from a 5-km wide strip along the border.
4. On 12 October, the Technikum was still occupied. Sentries observed wore black-bordered red epaulets. No vehicles were observed at the motor pool. A considerable amount of furniture was seen at the place, where furniture had already been stored on 7 October.
5. On 10 October, it was determined that the forester's house in Heldburg had been evacuated by Soviet soldiers on 9 October. The building was to be turned over to the border police. No Soviet patrols have been observed in the Heldburg area on and after 8 October. On 10 October, rear elements of the Soviet unit left Heldburg by road and proceeded toward Hildburghausen.
6. It was learned that first elements of the Soviet unit from Hildburghausen left on 7 October. The forward border unit details at Heldburg and Roemhild were withdrawn on the same day. The border was allegedly to be completely evacuated by Soviet units.
7. Between 7 and 10 October, it was learned and observed that the Soviet units stationed on the zonal border in the Vacha-Kaltennordheim area were leaving. Part of the units was allegedly to be deactivated; other elements were to be transferred to Ohrdruf. The evacuated quarters were to be turned over to the border police.

Comment. Hildburghausen has so far been carried as occupied by a Soviet border guard unit with details in Roemhild and Heldburg. The withdrawal of Soviet border guard units is reported for the first time. The measure is possibly a result of the declaration granting sovereignty to the GDR. It is assumed that, effective on 17 June 1955, the rifle regiments of the four Rifle Div of the Eighth Gds Army and Third Shock Army detached one battalion each for

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border guard duty or activation of independent guard battalions. It remains to be seen if the withdrawn guard battalions will return to their regiments or will be employed elsewhere. It has not been observed that the border police has been unusually reinforced.

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